

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 01965 022110Z

73

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12

/067 W

----- 092186

R 021747Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1097

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TO

SUBJECT: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS

REF: (A) LOME 1115, (B) LOME A-20,

1. IN WAKE OF BISHOP KPODZRO AFFAIR, CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS SENT A SERIES OF PEACEMAKERS TO CALL ON PRESIDENT EYADEMA. FIRST WAS POPE'S REPRESENTATIVE IN WEST AFRICA, MSG. WURSTENBERG (RESIDENT IN ABIDJAN), WHO MADE TWO VISITS IN LATE JULY AND EARLY AUGUST. THESE WERE FOLLOWED UP BY A VISIT AUGUST 26 BY ARCHBISHOP YAGO OF ABIDJAN AND ARCHBISHOP SANGARE OF BAMAKO. AFTER THIS MEETING, YAGO TOLD PRESS HE WAS TRYING TO IMPROVE CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS IN A DIALOGUE BETWEEN "BROTHERS OF THE SAME RACE" AND THAT WURSTENBERG, AS NON-AFRICAN, WAS NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND AFRICAN REACTIONS.

2. LATEST MOVE IN CHURCH PEACE OFFENSIVE WAS VISIT SEPTEMBER 1 BY CARDINAL ZOUNGRANA OF OUAGADOUGOU ACCOMPANIED BY YAGO AND SANGARE. THE CARDINAL HAD PRESIDED OVER BISHOP KPODZRO CONSECRATION IN MAY AND HIS POST-INCIDENT PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH BROUGHT MATTER TO ATTENTION OF WORLD PRESS, HAD BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY EYADEMA AS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS GOT. ZOUNGRANA TOLD LOCAL PRESS  
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THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO EXPLAIN THAT PRESS HAD TWISTED

HIS POST-INCIDENT REMARKS. HE THANKED EYADEMA FOR CONSENTING TO  
RECEIVE HIM AND CHARTACTERIZED ENCOUNTER AS AN AFRICAN DIALOGUE.

3. COMMENT: LOCAL HIERARCHY HAS NOT TAKEN PART IN THESE  
PEACEMAKING EFFORTS AND BISHOP KPODZRO HAS NOT TAKEN UP HIS  
DUTIES AT ATAKPAME.  
YOUNG

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LOME01965  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760333-1274  
**From:** LOME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760998/aaaadfhy.tel  
**Line Count:** 68  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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